25. The unsatisfactory state of the electoral rolls of the commerce constituency of the Legislative Council, the causes that led to such a condition and suggestions for remedying the same.

MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI (*Trading Classes, Alleppey*) said that under the existing Legislative Council Electoral Rules, the qualification for an elector of the commerce constituency was a gross income of Rs. 1,000. There were no data for ascertaining the income of a trader whose income was less than Rs. 2,000. The result was that the electoral rolls of the past three general elections were inaccurate and names of unqualified persons had been freely included. The revising authorities could omit the names of unqualified persons only on receipt of objections. As the commerce constituency spread over a large area, it was not an easy matter to prefer objections to each revising authority. That the rolls were inaccurate had been admitted by the Government also. The fact had been brought to the notice of the Special Electoral Rolls Officer in connection with the elections held in 1103 and the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon. Both the officers after local enquiry caused the elimination of a number of names from the rolls for the Tiruvalla taluk. About 400 claim applications were made to the revising authority for the Tiruvalla taluk for inclusion of the names of the applicants in the electoral rolls for 1103. But only 3 or 4 were admitted. When the Income Tax authorities served 'D' form notices on those persons, it came to light that many applications were inspired and some were pseudonymous. All difficulties would be obviated if the Electoral Rules were amended and the qualification for a voter for the commerce constituency were fixed as payment of income tax during the previous year. The electoral rolls could then be easily prepared with reference to the assessment register.

DEWAN'S REPLY :- Mr. Janardanan Pillai, I should like first to thank you for your lucid and helpful representation. The Government are also aware of the difficulties that exist in the working of the present rules, in getting a correct list of voters. I can only say that the question of modifying the rule so as to make it properly workable is under the earnest consideration of Government.

Your suggestion that the right of voting might be confined to those who pay income tax, *i. e.* who have an annual income of Rs. 2,000 and above, will be carefully considered while amending the rules.

26. Amendment of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation.

MR. PARAMESVARAN TUPPAN NAMPUTIRI (*Jenmies, Kottayam Division*) spoke about the need for amending the existing Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation. He said that the proposed amendment purported to take away the rights and privileges conferred on the *Jenmies* by Regulation V of 1071 and the Proclamation of 1042 and give them to the *Kudiyans*. The bill should not therefore be considered in its existing form. The bill was drafted on the basis of the resolutions passed at the Round Table Conference held under the auspices of the Government. Those resolutions were favourable to the *Kudiyans* alone

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